

*Inquiry into Mythical Monsters and Magical Beasts*  
Melissa Rack

This curriculum of this course is focused on methods of historical, ethnographic and academic research. Students will learn these methods as they explore the history of monsters and mystical creatures from antiquity through the popular culture of the Twentieth Century. Through the examination of the “monstrous” in a variety of genres, including literary texts, art, music and film, students will learn to master rhetorical techniques, both interpretive and persuasive, and to support their claims by situating their own voice within the context of their research. Students will excavate ways of theorizing monstrosity, examine the social function of monsters and mystical beasts, and trace the evolution of monstrous myth over time. Assignments will focus on the compilation of careful research and the cultivation of critical reading and writing skills. A final project will be tailored to each student’s particular interest and chosen area of research.